



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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John D. Monahan

March 4, 2011

**Testimony of
John D. Monahan
before the
Subcommittee on Human Services
of the
Joint Committee on Appropriations
of the
Connecticut General Assembly**

Senator Prague, Representative Hamm, Members of the Committee:

The Governor's Budget for the FY2012-2013 biennium recommends expenditures of \$3,061,036 in FY2012 and \$3,051,536 in FY2013. The Recommended Budget provides sufficient personnel and financial resources to fulfill the agency's statutory mandate of assisting needy Connecticut veterans.

The agency's Budget Request was prepared, as are all budgets, utilizing certain assumptions. In the case of Award Payments to Veterans, for example, in the category of Medical Expenses, the assumed inflation figure was 4.4%, and in the category of Energy Assistance the assumed inflation figure was 4.9%.

The Recommended Budget removes inflation assumptions, as is the case with all agency budgets, at the direction of the Governor. It is the agency's hope that the Recommended Budget figures will prove reasonably accurate. Should it prove otherwise, however, the agency has the ability, acting through the State Fund Commission of the American Legion, to adjust the amount, frequency and duration of assistance provided in order align the available resources to the demand for assistance. In each individual case it is the goal of the agency to be in a position to provide assistance in such amounts, with sufficient frequency, and of adequate duration to have a meaningful impact on the situation occasioning the veteran's need.

The Recommended Budget also allocates \$12,000 during FY2012 to accomplish a move of the agency's Central Office from leased space to state owned space. Though not part of the agency's budget, the elimination of the annual cost of the lease, now borne by the DPW, would result in a reduction of approximately \$20,000 in costs to that agency. The agency supports the concept of moving the Central Office to a state facility. Preliminary coordination of the proposed move has been effected with OPM and DPW, with the aim of identifying and making available suitable space. We will cooperate with the responsible agencies to ensure that the cost savings are achieved, that the move takes place in a timely manner, and that it causes as little disruption to the work of the Fund as possible.

Recent times have been demanding, and, to be sure, challenges lie ahead, but I am pleased to state that, during this, our 92nd year of service, our ability to positively affect the quality of life of Connecticut's veterans endures. We at the Fund, as well as Connecticut's 25,000 Legionnaires, as citizens of the state and veterans who are conversant with the concept of sacrifice for the common good, support the Governor in achieving his budget objectives. We are also enormously proud to be a part of the state's veterans' support infrastructure and thank the citizens of the state, this committee, the General Assembly, and the Governor for their support of our efforts.

John D. Monahan